

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00762 081341Z

44

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 AF-04

INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-02 SP-02 ACDA-10 OMB-01 L-01 PRS-01

SAJ-01 /055 W

----- 089106

P R 081300Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6265

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ROME

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0762

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PARM, MARR, SOV, SO

SUBJ: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN LIBYA; MISSILE BASES IN SOMALIA

REF: ROME 9698 (NOTAL)

1. BRITISH HERE HAVE ALREADY MADE APPROACH TO MALTESE ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON AND AFTER CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH AMBASSADOR, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER HAYDON CALLED ON GOM FOREIGN SECRETARY MAURICE ABELA LAST WEEK AND PRESENTED EVIDENCE, "RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICANS", WHICH HAD CAUSED HMG TO GIVE CREDENCE TO REPORTS OF ALARMING SOVIET ACTIVITY IN SOMALIA, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A MISSILE BASE. HAYDON DID NOT HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS, HOWEVER, AND SUPPLEMENTED ORAL DEMARCHE ONLY WITH BRIEF "SPEAKING NOTE" WHICH HE LEFT WITH ABELA. ACCORDING TO HAYDON, ABELA APPEARED SHAKEN BY WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM MINTOFF UPON HIS RETURN FROM EUROPEAN TRIP. WHETHER THE SAME EVIDENCE WILL IMPRESS MINTOFF IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00762 081341Z

2. DA RIN IS UNDOUBTEDLY CORRECT IN DESCRIBING MINTOFF AS REGARDING USG AFFIRMATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AS A PROPAGANDA PLOY (PARA 3 REFTEL). THIS IS WHY WE BELIEVE THAT BRITISH APPROACH WAS MORE EFFECTIVE, ASSUMING THAT ABELA DOES IN FACT INFORM MINTOFF OF HAYDON'S DEMARCHE. ABELA, LIKE MOST OF MINTOFF'S SUBORDINATES, IS OFTEN RELUCTANT TO GIVE HIM INFORMATION WHICH IS UNPALATABLE OR AT VARIANCE WITH HIS PRECONCEIVED IDEAS. MINTOFF JUST RETURNED OVER THE WEEKEND, AND WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION YET THAT ABELA HAS TOLD HIM OF BRITISH VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. VIEWED FROM HERE, WE BELIEVE THAT ADDITIONAL EFFORT BY ITALIANS TO CONVINCE MINTOFF MIGHT BE USEFUL, PARTICULARLY IF PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE IS INCLUDED. THIS WOULD SUPPLEMENT BRITISH APPROACH AND BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE WITH MINTOFF THAN ANY SIMILAR EFFORT BY US. (FYI: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI IS MILDLY CONCERNED THAT IT TOOK 25 DAYS TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT FROM GOM FOR DA RIN'S APPOINTMENT AS HIS SUCCESSOR AND SPECULATES THAT MINTOFF MAY BE SUSPICIOUS OF DA RIN'S LONG INVOLVEMENT IN NATO AFFAIRS. WE HAVE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM MALTESE SOURCES. END FYI)

4. WE HAD NOT YET HEARD OF MINTOFF'S PLANNED VISIT TO SOMALIA SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR, BUT SUCH A TRIP WOULD CERTAINLY BE IN KEEPING WITH HIS CURRENT EFFORTS TO INTENSIFY HIS CONTACTS WITH THIRD WORLD LEADERS AND ESTABLISH (NON-RESIDENT) DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY BASES, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VALLET00762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-0284
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750775/aaaacpcd.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 ROME 9698
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN LIBYA; MISSILE BASES IN SOMALIA
TAGS: PARM, MARR, UR, SO, LY, UK, MT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006